Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 65048 UPPER CAPROCK 3 Allotment
[09/30/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 65048 UPPER CAPROCK 3. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
65048-IDSU-C041	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Upper Caprock 3, allotment 65048. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot location within the allotment was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 to 10 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 679 acres of public land. The study is located on a Loamy HP-3 ecological site. A majority of the indicators were rated at “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate” departure from the ecological site description except for the indicators for Litter and Invasive Plants which were both rated as a Moderate departure, due to the amount of cholla, mesquite, creosote and broomsnakeweed. The interdisciplinary team estimated the mesquite invasion on the public land production on this location to be at the level that would benefit from a vegetation manipulation project especially when combined with treatment of the adjacent private and state lands. This would require the coordination with the private land owner and the NM State Land office. Treatment of the public land alone would not be economically feasible.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure that proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 65048-IDSU-C041			
Legal Land Desc	NWNW 17 0150S 0310E Meridian 23	Acreage	679
Ecosite	077CY053NM LOAMY HP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	12080003010 MONUMENT		
Observers	TRAUTNER & BAGGAO	Observation Date	09/30/2010
County Soil Survey	NM666 CHAVES SOUTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	Kt	Soil Taxon Name	KIMBROUGH
Texture Class	NM666	Soil Phase	KIMBROUGH-STEGALL-SLAUGHT
Texture Modifier	NM666 GRAVELLY FINE SAND		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	0
Disturbances and Animal Use:	New powerlines, at least 2 new (possibly three) new oil & gas well pads.		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:	Ecological site description = 25-30%, this location = 30%					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Patches of higher shrub composition					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	All key species present, patches of higher shrub composition					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount			X		
Comments:	Ecological site description = 30%, this location is at the bottom end of esd					
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	Ecological site description = 525 lbs/acre of production, this location is estimated to be ~80% of expected.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Invasive plants here include cholla, creosote, mesquite and snakeweed.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	1	9
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	2	8
B	Biotic	0	0	2	4	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	2	9

Site Notes: Vegetation species present at this site include: blue grama, sideoats, black grama, 3-awns, hairy grama, winterfat, croton and other annual forbs.

Noted increasing oil and gas development in this area, not much public land within this allotment.

Recommend to continue current management.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65048 UPPER CAPROCK 3

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Upper Caprock 3, #65048 meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standards of Rangeland Health. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman	03/11/2011
Assistant Field Manager	Date